



First Christian Church
Disciples of Christ

430 S. 16th St. Lincoln, NE 68508 402.475.4289

Weekly Worship

love all • live spiritually • rejoice in hope • show hospitality

The Rev. Kara Hillhouse, Pastor
Mark W. Miller, Director of Worship, Music & Sacred Arts
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Week of December 8, 2024
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Community Prayer

Out of the embrace of mercy and righteousness, you have brought forth joy and dignity for your people, O Holy One of Israel. Remember now your ancient promise: make straight the paths that lead to you, and smooth the rough ways, that in our day we might bring forth your compassion for all humanity. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: It is in the watching, and in the waiting

Many: that we hear the promises made so long ago.

One: It is in the questions, and in the hoping

Many: that we give thanks every time we hear the glad news.

One: It is in the coming, and in the going

Many: that we welcome the One who is our Delight, our Joy.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

The Pause

In the Bible we see God actively engaging with his people time after time: through angels and human messengers and burning bushes and pillars of smoke and gusting wind and parting seas and floods and even silence...so many different ways God interacted with humanity. In Advent alone, we see God working through ordinary people in the stories of John the Baptist, Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth, the three kings, and the shepherds. Does God continue to actively engage with us today? And, if so, is it as dramatic as it was in Biblical times, because the Biblical stories are excellent fodder for dramatic Hollywood movies. More importantly, do we look for God acting in the world, and, if we see God acting in our lives, do we say "yes, Lord"? All of the characters above said "yes" to God -- most without hesitation. Do we hesitate when we're asked to "go"? Is our response, *"Hey, God, I'd really like to say yes to your invitation to follow you, but I've got a pretty full calendar and this week just doesn't work for me. How about next week? I can fit you in Wednesday between noon and 2pm."* What can we learn from the Advent stories? Join us for worship this week, when we'll light another Advent candle, listen for God's continued nudge in our lives, and share in the feast at Christ's table. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara

2nd Sunday in Advent



Scripture Readings

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight - indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.



Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Prayers & Praises

December 8, 2024



Song of the week

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily: to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go. **[Refrain]**

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe. **[Refrain]**

O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave. **[Refrain]**

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. **[Refrain]**



In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Rhonda Ball
- Cecilia Burkhart
- Bobbi Carlin
- Mike Carlin
- Jim Christ
- Joan Dietrich
- Wayne Duncan
- Ron Hile
- Phyllis Knosp
- Polly Putney
- Rae-Hope Putney
- Marvin Thurber
- Phyllis Thurber
- Jessica Vocasek
- Roger Vocasek

Prayers for Cecilia Burkhart. She broke her right collar bone in a fall.

Prayers for Roger Vocasek. He dislocated his shoulder and is doing PT while waiting for an MRI approval.

Friends:

- Allen Watsek, brother of *Gwen Belden is being treated for cancer.*
- John Burkhart, husband of *Cecilia Burkhart as he continues to recover and get his speech back.*
- Tammy Foral, *healing, patience and strength as facing many health issues. Co-worker of Sara Lugn.*
- Cedric Gibb, *healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhart.*

Our Timothy:

- Rev. Bruce Frogge, *Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX*

In the Nebraska Region: CCN Board of Directors

Our Global Ministries Missionaries: Honduras

"In this hour, we pour out our hearts before you, and we raise a cry for Honduras, as your word says in Luke 3:4, "Voice of one crying in the wilderness..." so we cry, God, for our nation that you might have mercy and not forget your sons and daughters. Look, God, at all that we Hondurans are going through; "we want to see the salvation of God in our nation."

For more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners visit www.globalministries.org

